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# Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
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## Review of the Restore the Outdoors Program

### ISSUE

The Restore the Outdoors Program was established to renovate, restore, and construct new facilities at State Parks. This is an overview of what the Program has accomplished and to evaluate if there is adequate funding for the identified needs.

### AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Natural Resources,  
Parks and Preserves Division

### CODE AUTHORITY

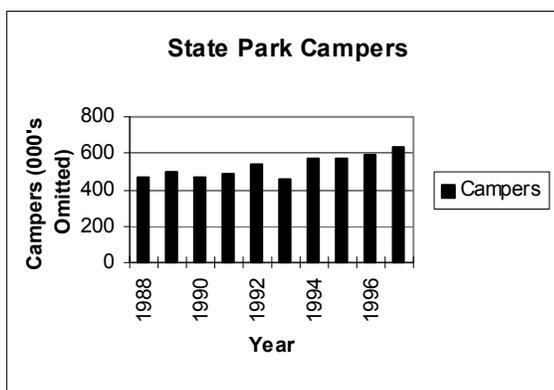
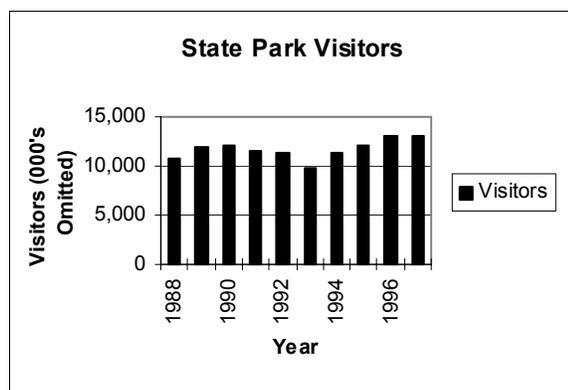
Chapter 461, Code of Iowa

### BACKGROUND

In FY 1997, the General Assembly appropriated \$3.0 million from the General Fund for improvement, renovation, and restoration of facilities in State parks, primarily, historical buildings constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) or the Work Progress Administration (WPA).

In FY 1998, the Restore the Outdoors Program was created and the Legislature appropriated \$4.0 million per year until FY 2001 for improvements to existing vertical infrastructure projects or construction of new facilities when there is increased demand. The Governor vetoed \$1.0 million per year for projects in governmental subdivisions connected to recreational trails that connect a State park to the State Recreational Trail System. The vetoed section was removed by the Legislature in 1998 and the standing appropriation is \$3.0 million per year.

The need to renovate and repair existing facilities is due to the increased use of State parks as the number of visitors and campers have increased. The following chart depicts the number of visitors and campers at State parks during 1988 through 1997:



**CURRENT SITUATION**

The following table identifies the improvement projects completed using the \$3.0 million that was appropriated in FY 1997:

State Park/Location	FY 1997 Expenditure	Projects Completed
Backbone/Strawberry Point	\$ 889,983	Dam repair and beach house renovation
Blackhawk/Lake View	119,747	Shelter renovation
Brush Creek/Canyon/Arlington	34,600	Shelter and latrine renovation
Dolliver/Lehigh	266,668	Family cabins renovation
Echo Valley/Elgin	24,130	Shelter renovation
Lacey Keosauqua/Keosauqua	585,567	Lodge and beach house renovation, two picnic shelters
Lake Wapello/Drakesville	797,842	Beach house renovation
Springbrook/Guthrie Center	58,000	Shelter renovation
Stone/Sioux City	167,400	Lodge renovation
Total	\$ 2,943,937	

**Attachment A** lists the improvements scheduled for FY 1998 through FY 2001. Of the 83 State park and recreation areas, 46 (55%), are included for renovations. The following is a summary of the ten most costly projects over the four-year period. (The plan is reviewed and revised on an annual basis).

State Park	FY 1998-2001 Projected or Estimated Expenditure	Renovation Projects Scheduled
State Project Design*	\$ 841,500	Project design and implementation.
Springbrook	841,320	Beach facility, cabins, showers and restrooms, campground electric, maintenance building, and pumphouse. Additional residence, improvement of the beach parking lot, and new roof/bathroom carpeting in Education Center.
Lake Keomah	698,000	Beach facility, group dining hall, lodges, latrines, shower areas, maintenance building, and campground electric.
Rock Creek	694,314	Campground electric and wastewater treatment system.
Dolliver	690,660	Showers/restrooms, maintenance building, checking station, and water lines.
Backbone	596,800	Campground electric, wastewater system, water system, cabins, and latrines. Restoration of stone wall in hatchery.
Lake Ahquabi	594,314	Beach facility, stone shelter, latrines, maintenance building, and replacement of lodge roof.
Lacey Keosauqua	463,500	Cabins, maintenance buildings, check dams, latrines, and water system.
Pine Lake	448,500	Beach facility, lodge facility, latrines, water system, sewer system, wastewater treatment system.
Gull Point	448,255	Lodge and latrines.

\*Statewide Project Design is part of the Construction Services Bureau in the Administrative Division in the Department of Natural Resources. Services provided include project design, cost estimation, advertisement of projects for bidding, awarding contracts, and supervising and inspection projects.

**Attachment B** lists the scheduled improvements for FY 2002 through FY 2004. Of the 83 State parks and recreation areas, 48 (58%) are included for renovations. The following is a summary of the ten most costly projects over the three-year period. (The plan is reviewed and revised on an annual basis).

State Park	FY 2002-04 Projected or Estimated Expenditure	Projects Scheduled Renovation
State Project Design	\$ 860,500	Project design and implementation.
Springbrook	522,000	Group camp facilities, service building, and latrines.
Pine Lake	454,500	Water system, service facility, latrines, and modernization of camp latrines.
Geode	441,000	Wastewater system, water lines, beach facility, and shop replacement.
Bellevue	351,900	Shelter, campground electric, showers/restrooms, water lines, and garage.
Lake of Three Fires	342,000	Showers/restrooms and cabins.
Lake Macbride	336,600	Water lines, shop, and campgrounds.
George Wyth	324,000	Service building, latrines, and beach facility.
Lake Darling	319,500	Beach facility, shower system, service building wastewater treatment system, and replacement of boat/concession stand.
Stone	315,000	Water system, wastewater system, and showers/restrooms.

### ***Programs in Other States***

The following table identifies capital improvement expenditures in parks for other states for Fiscal Year 1998:

State	FY 1998 Funding (millions)	Sources Funding
Minnesota	\$ 8.0	Water/Recreation Fund, Lottery Trust Fund, State of Minnesota Bond Issue.
Missouri	\$ 7.5	Percentage of sales tax goes to parks.
Nebraska	\$ 2.5	Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Fund and park operations.
South Dakota	\$ 4.9	General fund appropriation, park operations, state gas tax, and federal funds.
Wisconsin	\$ 5.5	Stewardship Bond Program, Department of Transportation, Trails Stewardship Program, Historic Building Restoration, and park operations.

Capital budgets vary from year to year and depend upon the projects that are designated for renovation, restoration, or construction. Four of the states sell park permits and earmark that revenue to the park operations fund. Those states include Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

**ALTERNATIVES**

To complete all projects designated for the Restore the Outdoors Program, funds need to be extended until FY 2004. If the Program is not extended, other alternatives would include selling park permits for additional funding or to not finish the projects on the restoration list.

**BUDGET IMPACT**

The estimated cost to finish the scheduled improvement projects, is \$3.0 million per year in FY 2002, 2003, and 2004.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information relating to the Restore the Outdoors Program is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

STAFF CONTACT: Deb Kozel (Ext. 16767)

**Restore the Outdoors Program  
FY 1998 - FY 2001 Expenditures**

Park	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	Total	% to Total
AA Call	\$0	\$248,969	\$0	\$0	\$248,969	2.03%
Backbone	186,600	110,000	237,200	63,000	596,800	4.86%
Beeds Lake	266,872	0	0	175,500	442,372	3.60%
Bellevue	0	0	123,300	0	123,300	1.00%
Blackhawk	0	0	0	144,000	144,000	1.17%
Bob White	0	40,000	0	0	40,000	0.33%
Carryover to FY 99	0	280,620	0	0	280,620	2.29%
Clear Lake	216,481	0	60,000	0	276,481	2.25%
Dolliver	333,660	0	330,000	27,000	690,660	5.62%
Fort Defiance	0	0	0	36,000	36,000	0.29%
Geode	0	0	0	58,500	58,500	0.48%
George Wyth	0	0	55,500	0	55,500	0.45%
Green Valley	0	0	0	36,000	36,000	0.29%
Gull Point	0	421,255	0	27,000	448,255	3.65%
Lacey Keosauqua	0	0	180,000	283,500	463,500	3.77%
Lake Ahquabi	576,314	0	0	18,000	594,314	4.84%
Lake Anita	3,007	50,000	180,000	0	233,007	1.90%
Lake Keomah	0	0	500,000	198,000	698,000	5.68%
Lake Macbride	0	139,640	0	18,000	157,640	1.28%
Lake Manawa	0	0	0	153,000	153,000	1.25%
Lake of Three Fires	149,724	0	75,000	58,500	283,224	2.31%
Lake Wapello	0	0	315,000	36,000	351,000	2.86%
Ledges	0	49,500	0	261,000	310,500	2.53%
Lewis & Clark	0	75,000	0	0	75,000	0.61%
Maquoketa Caves	0	0	0	175,500	175,500	1.43%
Mini-Wakan	0	0	0	18,000	18,000	0.15%
Nine Eagles	0	0	59,000	0	59,000	0.48%
Okamanpedan	0	0	0	40,500	40,500	0.33%
Palisades Kepler	31,000	210,000	0	90,000	331,000	2.70%
Pike Point	73,366	0	0	0	73,366	0.60%
Pilot Knob	0	0	0	22,500	22,500	0.18%
Pine Lake	141,500	141,500	80,000	85,500	448,500	3.65%
Pleasant Creek	0	0	100,000	0	100,000	0.81%
Red Haw	0	0	0	36,000	36,000	0.29%
Rock Creek	59,314	500,000	135,000	0	694,314	5.65%
Sharon Bluffs	0	79,756	0	0	79,756	0.65%
Springbrook	519,560	78,760	0	243,000	841,320	6.85%
Statewide Park Landscaping	50,000	50,000	50,000	75,000	225,000	1.83%
Statewide Parks Design	62,192	295,000			357,192	2.91%
Statewide Parks Minor Ren.	100,000	100,000	75,000	0	275,000	2.24%
Statewide Parks Trails	50,000	50,000	75,000	60,000	235,000	1.91%
Statewide Project Design	260,000	0	295,000	286,500	841,500	6.85%
Stone	63,430	0	0	18,000	81,430	0.66%
Swan Lake	0	0	0	31,500	31,500	0.26%
Trappers Bay	0	0	0	18,000	18,000	0.15%
Twin Lakes	0	0	0	18,000	18,000	0.15%
Union Grove	9,000	0	0	0	9,000	0.07%
Volga River	0	0	0	27,000	27,000	0.22%
Wanata	0	0	0	31,500	31,500	0.26%
Waubonsie	58,000	0	0	85,500	143,500	1.17%
Wildcat Den	70,600	80,000	75,000	45,000	270,600	2.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,280,620</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$12,280,620</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Restore the Outdoors Program  
FY 2002 - FY 2004 Expenditures**

<b>Park</b>	<b>FY 2002</b>	<b>FY 2003</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% to Total</b>
Backbone	\$0	\$148,500	\$54,000	\$202,500	2.25%
Beeds Lake	126,000	0	45,000	171,000	1.90%
Bellevue	31,500	275,400	45,000	351,900	3.91%
Big Creek	135,000	0	0	135,000	1.50%
Blackhawk	0	0	153,000	153,000	1.70%
Bob White	0	36,000	0	36,000	0.40%
Central Shop	0	0	27,000	27,000	0.30%
Clear Lake	129,600	0	0	129,600	1.44%
Dolliver	13,500	0	54,000	67,500	0.75%
Elk Rock	0	0	27,000	27,000	0.30%
Fairpoint Access	0	39,600	13,500	53,100	0.59%
Fort Defiance	18,000	36,000	27,000	81,000	0.90%
Geode	135,000	207,000	99,000	441,000	4.90%
George Wyth	270,000	0	54,000	324,000	3.60%
Green Valley	0	0	234,000	234,000	2.60%
Gull Point	126,000	36,000	0	162,000	1.80%
Honey Creek	162,000	0	0	162,000	1.80%
Lacey Keosauqua	225,000	54,000	0	279,000	3.10%
Lake Ahquabi	135,000	0	0	135,000	1.50%
Lake Anita	0	135,000	99,000	234,000	2.60%
Lake Darling	90,000	112,500	117,000	319,500	3.55%
Lake Keomah	28,800	0	36,000	64,800	0.72%
Lake Macbride	57,600	0	279,000	336,600	3.74%
Lake Manawa	0	0	45,000	45,000	0.50%
Lake of Three Fires	126,000	126,000	90,000	342,000	3.80%
Lake Wapello	0	112,500	0	112,500	1.25%
Ledges	0	27,000	0	27,000	0.30%
Lewis & Clark	0	126,000	27,000	153,000	1.70%
McIntosh Woods	0	27,000	0	27,000	0.30%
Mill Creek	22,500	0	0	22,500	0.25%
Mini-Wakan	45,000	0	0	45,000	0.50%
Nine Eagles	0	36,000	27,000	63,000	0.70%
Palisades Kepler	0	0	130,500	130,500	1.45%
Pikes Peak	270,000	0	0	270,000	3.00%
Pilot Knob	0	0	126,000	126,000	1.40%
Pine Lake	67,500	297,000	90,000	454,500	5.05%
Pleasant Creek	0	135,000	0	135,000	1.50%
Prairie Rose	0	108,000	108,000	216,000	2.40%
Red Haw	0	0	22,500	22,500	0.25%
Rock Creek	22,500	0	144,000	166,500	1.85%
Springbrook		405,000	117,000	522,000	5.80%
Statewide Park Landscaping	75,000	75,000	75,000	225,000	2.50%
Statewide Parks Trails	50,000	60,000	60,000	170,000	1.89%
Statewide Project Design	287,500	286,500	286,500	860,500	9.56%
Stone	180,000	9,000	126,000	315,000	3.50%
Viking Lake	0	0	54,000	54,000	0.60%
Walnut Woods	0	0	54,000	54,000	0.60%
Wapsipinicon	0	27,000	0	27,000	0.30%
Waubonsie	126,000	0	54,000	180,000	2.00%
Wildcat Den	45,000	0	0	45,000	0.50%
Yellow River	0	63,000	0	63,000	0.70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>